

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

LOS ANGELES RIVER CENTER AND GARDENS
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August 9, 2004

John A. Saurenman
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Lands Section
300 South Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90013

**South Pasadena-Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife Park Restoration
Proposition 50 Grant Application**

Dear John:

Enclosed please find a proposed grant application submitted in draft form by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and drafts of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy grant agreement, staff report and resolution.

The MRCA is requesting a grant in the amount of \$17,040 from the Conservancy's Proposition 50 funds to be used to complete the restoration of parkland located in the Los Angeles River watershed and owned by the City of South Pasadena.

Section 79570(c) of the Water Code provides that the Conservancy may make grants for the purpose of protecting coastal watersheds upstream of the City of Vernon including restoration of land and water resources.

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Budget Control language the Conservancy requests that your office review the enclosed draft and provide the Conservancy with advice as to whether the proposed grant is in compliance with the General Obligation Bond Law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie C. Collins".

LAURIE C. COLLINS
Chief Staff Counsel

BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



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August 25, 2004

Laurie Collins
Chief Staff Counsel
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Los Angeles River Center and Gardens
570 West Avenue Twenty-Six, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90065

RE: Proposition 50 Grant to MRCA for South Pasadena-Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife
Park Restoration

Dear Ms. Collins:

You have asked that the Office of the Attorney General review the above-referenced grant to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and advise the Conservancy whether the grant complies with the General Obligation Bond Law and Proposition 50.

Based on the information you have provided, the Conservancy proposes to grant \$17,040 in Proposition 50 bond funds to the MRCA. In October 2000, the Conservancy granted \$250,000 to the MRCA for restoration and improvements to the South Pasadena-Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife Park. This grant would provide for additional restoration at the park. Under the initial grant, the MRCA has conducted restoration and construction activities including creation of several small bioswales to detain storm water runoff on the site. The bioswales are planted with native grasses and allow storm water to infiltrate the soil rather than flowing into a concrete storm water channel. The present grant will help insure the survival of the bioswales and other restored areas by removing invasive exotic plants. Finally, the restoration project includes by pruning native trees which will protect them from pests and allow them to compete better against invasive exotic plants that can threaten the restoration work.

Proposition 50 makes available \$200 million "for expenditures and grants for the purpose of protecting coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to, acquisition, protection, and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting and administrative

Laurie Collins
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costs." (Wat. Code, § 79570.) Proposition 50 then provides \$20 million to the Conservancy to be expended for protection of the Upper Los Angeles River watershed. (Wat. Code, § 79570, subd. (c).) Thus, the acquisition and restoration of land and water resources in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed is an authorized means of protecting those watersheds.

This grant is for the continued restoration of the South Pasadena-Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife Park, that is, a land resource in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed. As such, it is a proper expenditure of bond funds. We note that this project also furthers a number of the purposes of Proposition 50 including improving practices within the Upper Los Angeles River watershed (Wat. Code, § 79501, subd. (e)), and demonstrating techniques for reducing dependence on imported water and reducing pollution (Wat. Code, § 79501, subd. (f)). We find this grant is proper under the General Obligation Bond Law and Proposition 50.

Sincerely,



JOHN A. SAURENMAN
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

For BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General